Application No. 10/540,009 Docket No.: 20459-00395-US1 Amendment dated December 2, 2009

Reply to Office Action of August 7, 2009

## REMARKS

Claims 3-10 and 12-15 are now pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3-7, 9, 10, and 13-15 have been amended. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendment to claim 4 is found at least at original claims 1 and 2. Claim 4 has been merely amended into independent form and not to limit its scope. No new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciate the indication at page 8 of the Office Action that claim 4 recites allowable subject matter and base the amendments herein on this indication.

Entrance of the amendments is respectfully requested as they bring this application into condition for allowance.

Claim 1 is objected to because the claim feature "24" in the last line should be deleted. This objection has been rendered moot by the cancelation of claim 1.

Claim 1 is further objected to because it is considered unclear whether the rear contact zones are part of the holder beak or the replacement part. As noted above, the cancelation of claim 1 renders this objection moot. Further, claim 4, which is herewith amended into independent form, recites "extend around the proximal end of said holder part" instead of "extend around the proximal end of said replacement part," and recites "at least one pair of rear contact zones comprising a holder beak collar" instead of "at least one pair of front contact zones comprising a holder beak collar," such that claim 4 is free from the criticism asserted against claim 1.

Claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Statutory Invention Registration No. H2020 H to Kesavan et al. (hereinafter, "Kesavan") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,918,391 to Viñas Peya (hereinafter "Viñas Peya") and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,491,915 to Robinson et al. (hereinafter "Robinson").

As appreciated by the Examiner, the applied citations cannot reasonably be considered to suggest features corresponding to the locking device comprises at least two movable engagement Amendment dated December 2, 2009 Reply to Office Action of August 7, 2009

parts loaded by elastic material, wherein the engagement parts are constituted by a securing plate for detachable blocking of the locking device in a predetermined locking position, and a compression plate configured to load via its elastic material the contact elements of the replacement part and of the holder part against each other, as recited in claim 4.

Claims 3, 5-10 and 12-15 are in condition for allowance for at least their respective dependence on an allowable claim 4, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant concurrently herewith submits the requisite fee for a Petition for a one-month Extension of Time. Applicant believes no additional fee is due with this response. However, if any such additional fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 20459-00395-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 2, 2009 Respectfully submitted,

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